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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of:

Examiner: L. Vinh

Shuzo SATO et al.

Art Unit: 1765

Application No.: 09/800,580

Confirmation No.: 5367

Filed: March 8, 2001

For: METHODS OF PRODUCING AND POLISHING SEMICONDUCTOR DEVICE
AND POLISHING APPARATUS

AMENDMENT AFTER FINAL ACTION (37 C.F.R. SECTION 1.116)

MS AF

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

INTRODUCTORY COMMENTS

In response to the Office Action dated March 16, 2004 (Paper No. 030704), finally rejecting claims 1-7, 9-42, and 45-52, please amend the above-identified U.S. patent application as follows:

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of claims, which begins on page 2 of this paper.

Remarks/Arguments begin on page 7 of this paper.